

WE MUST REFORM LAST YEAR'S CRIME BILL

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton's crime bill of 1994 was either a masterstroke of genius or it was a joke wrapped around a sham surrounded by a barrel of pork. I'm inclined to agree the latter possibility is closer to the truth.

The proponents of last year's crime bill proclaimed from every rooftop that 100,000 police would be put on the streets. What they didn't tell anyone was that local governments had to cough up 25 percent of the cost of fielding these police officers. With most local and State governments cracking under the strain of other Federal mandates, many localities could not afford yet another mandate.

Mr. Speaker, we must reform last year's crime bill and help local governments by giving them block grants instead of punishing them with more mandates.

Local control and local problem solving from those on the front line combating crime, that is the key, not one-size-fits-all from an idiocracy ensconced on the banks of the Potomac.

Mr. Speaker, Americans spoke last November 8. They continue to speak through this Contract With America. We will enact it and we will get tough on crime.

TIME TO SHINE BRIGHT LIGHT ON MEXICAN BAILOUT

(Mr. VISCLOSKEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, if NAFTA is such a great deal why are we bailing out Mexico?

We need answers and open debate on this and many other questions concerning the Mexican bailout.

It is just flat out wrong for at least 20 billion taxpayer dollars to be put at risk without congressional debate and action. Our willingness to duck—or even talk about—this tough political issue is an object failure of the Congress to meet its constitutional responsibilities.

Congress—not the President—controls the power of the purse and Congress needs to vigorously protect the taxpayers' money. That's why the Banking Committee should favorably and fully act on the resolution of inquiry so we can get some real answers.

Mr. Speaker, we're in the dark and the American people want answers. It's time for Congress to shine a bright light on the Mexican bailout.

REFORMING OSHA REGULATIONS

(Mr. NORWOOD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, let us talk about disincentive. In a typically bizarre manner, OSHA has created a rule that provides a disincentive for employers to look out for the safety of their workers. If an employer voluntarily starts a study to see if their employees are at risk due to exposure to chemicals or hazardous materials, OSHA requires that employer to keep medical records for their employees for the duration of their employment plus 30 years.

Employers are not required to do these self-studies, but if an employer wants to begin a voluntary self-study, OSHA makes the costs so prohibitive that no employer in his or her right mind would every try. What employer wants to keep medical records on employees for over 50 years? Mr. Speaker, this is just another example of an agency with no common sense. This is why we need regulatory reform and a moratorium on new regulations until we can sort all this out. OSHA is one agency that needs to be restructured, reinvented, or just plain removed.

STOP THE GRAVY TRAIN FOR RUSSIA

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, you heard about Boris, now get a load of Yuri. That is right, Yuri Luzhkov, mayor of Moscow, next President of Russia. Secret meetings, secret budgets, secret records, secret million dollar deals. This guy Yuri makes Boss Tweed look like mother Teresa, but he is a prototype, Congress, of new Russian politicians. He hires his family so he can save money on the car pool.

Meanwhile, they are laughing all the way to the bank with our \$12 billion. To boot, it is being put in a Russian bank.

I think Boris and now specifically Yuri leave a lot to be denied, and I say Congress should stop this \$12 billion gravy train for Russia and invest it in America. I think these guys are no Thomas Jefferson.

THE FIRST 40 DAYS

(Mrs. SEASTRAND asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. SEASTRAND. Mr. Speaker, this is day 41 of the new Congress. And what have we really accomplished? Plenty. We passed the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution, unfunded mandates reform and the line-item veto. This week we are working to pass the final piece of the crime package that will insure criminals spend their time behind bars in prison, so law abid-

ing citizens do not spend their time behind bars in their homes.

Many of us ran for this office on the promise to take power from Washington and return it to the people closest to the problem. Our bill to fight violent crime recognizes that local governments know best how to deal with the problem. It gives them the tools, then gets out of their way.

Yesterday, President Clinton's Chief of Staff said Washington politicians should direct crime-fighting dollars. Well, President Clinton may think Washington knows best, I think the American people know best.

With this bill we continue to keep our promises to bring real change to Washington, to keep our contract on track and to fight violent crime with local solutions, not Washington-knows-best conclusions.

NOMINATION OF DR. FOSTER FOR SURGEON GENERAL

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, the radical right opposes Dr. Foster's nomination for one reason, and one reason only: because he performed abortions.

The other objections are just a smokescreen. This is not about Dr. Foster's credibility and it is not about hysterectomies. It is about the right to choose.

The American people will not allow a narrow band of extremist special interest groups to derail Dr. Foster's nomination. The majority of Americans do not want the right to pick our Nation's next Surgeon General.

The new anti-choice majority in Congress wants to use this nomination to take American women backward. They want to completely roll back the right to choose. This is just the opening round in that battle.

Mr. Speaker, we will not back down. We will not tolerate the harassment of doctors, whether it occurs in front of clinics or on Capitol Hill. Dr. Foster is in this fight to the finish and he is going to win.

PASS H.R. 728 NOW

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, crime in America is out of control. By the time I finish speaking, an American citizen will be robbed and two more will be assaulted. Someone will be a victim of rape within the next 4 minutes in this country, and before we move on to the legislative business at least one American will be murdered.

Mr. Speaker, those statistics are scary. They scare the American people and they scare law enforcement officials. The only ones who are not scared are the criminals.

The grants included in the so-called crime bill last year had so many strings that most State and local governments could not or would not accept them.

Mr. Speaker, let us cut the strings, let us give local law enforcement officials the power to fight local crime. Let us pass H.R. 728 now, before one more American becomes just another statistic.

ABORTIONS—SAFE, RARE, AND LEGAL

(Mr. SKAGGS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SKAGGS. Mr. Speaker, is the issue Henry Foster's nomination to be Surgeon General? No, that is not the real issue. What is really going on? This nomination has become the battle ground over abortion rights.

President Clinton could not have put it better. Abortion should be safe, legal, and rare. Yet the Foster nomination has been seized upon by those who would criminalize choice. They see it as a chance to further their extreme agenda.

Now we learn that last fall the Senate Republican Campaign Committee gave tens of thousands of dollars to the Right to Life Committee. The purpose: to increase the number of votes to criminalize choice.

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Let us get it straight—safe, rare, and legal.

MISLEADING INFORMATION FROM THE WHITE HOUSE ON THE CRIME ISSUE

(Mr. WELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, the President never ceases to amaze me. He has this incredible habit of setting up these ridiculous straw men for the express purpose of making him look good when someone knocks them over. He has misled us on the issue of Social Security, and now he is trying to mislead us on crime.

The President says he will veto any bill that goes back on his promise of 100,000 new police officers, but like most Clinton promises, the 100,000 new policemen were a hoax from the start to the finish. As Republicans made clear last year during the debate on the crime bill, the Clinton bill would only result at most in 20,000 new cops.

Today I placed a phone call to one of the mayors in my district, the mayor of Calumet City. Last year his city received a grant, a \$1 million grant to fund 13 new police officers. Now, he says, the realities or the strings of the President's program have set in. His city council has only been able to find funding for its 25-percent share, the match it has to put up, for 6 out of 13

of those officers. The local share totals \$800,000 over 3 years.

Calumet City's problems highlight the problems of the President's program. It is not working. It must be changed.

CONFIRM DR. FOSTER

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that the nomination of Dr. Henry Foster as Surgeon General of the United States is a choice of great vision.

This nomination should not and must not be about how many abortions Dr. Foster has performed. Those who oppose a woman's right to choose must take that fight somewhere else. Every woman in America has the right to choose—that is the law of the land. Dr. Foster has done nothing wrong.

Dr. Foster has done a great deal that is right. He has become a leading authority on reducing infant mortality and preventing teen pregnancy and drug abuse.

This is a man who has spent a lifetime working to improve the lives of others. It is clear to me that Dr. Foster should be confirmed as Surgeon General. There are no more questions that need to be answered. Dr. Foster should be confirmed and he should be confirmed now.

U.S. MILITARY FORCES FACED WITH BUREAUCRATIC U.N. LEADERSHIP

(Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRYANT of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, the study of recent military conflicts and peacekeeping missions have led to two conclusions: First, in the case of major conflict, the massive presence of U.S. forces is necessary to defeat the aggressor or to contain the threat; second, our American forces must be given the necessary military means and freedom of action to accomplish these goals. Operation Desert Storm has rightly been held as a prime example of a U.S.-led international military force.

Unfortunately, the hope and the lessons of Desert Storm have been lost as we have squandered them away in Somalia and even more in Bosnia.

Over 40 years NATO has successfully preserved the peace and freedom of its members against a threat by the Soviet Union and its allies, but instead of celebrating our success, NATO today must confront a crisis that tears at the very fabric of that alliance.

At the heart of this problem is the fact that in Bosnia, NATO cannot act without the consent of the United Nations and its local representative. An inflexible, time-consuming dual military command structure also have proven to be an invitation to disaster.

The Armed Forces of the United States are the preeminent fighting machine in the world today. They are the best trained, best skilled, best equipped, and best led.

Mr. Speaker, the brave young men and women in the Armed Forces deserve better than to be placed under the command of foreign nationals acting on behalf of the United Nations in a faceless bureaucracy. That is why the National Security Revitalization Act is so important.

THE CRIME ISSUE LEADS TO THREATS OF PARTISANSHIP

(Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last week the Republican Party put through a bill to change last year's bill providing prison construction funds. They said last week that we had given the States too much discretion and we needed here in Washington to tell the States more what to do.

Today and tomorrow they are going to put through a bill that is exactly the opposite. They are going to try to undo what we did last year regarding money for prevention and for police because they say it does not give the States enough freedom.

What is the common threat? Why were they for restricting the States last week and for untying the States this week? Because they fear that President Clinton and the Democratic Congress has this year succeeded, and they are desperately eager for partisan purposes to undo that success.

That would not be so bad if it were not for the consequences. In my district and in districts all across this country police officers have been hired for what they thought was a 3-year period under the Clinton plan of last year. For partisan purposes, the Republican program would disrupt that. It would say to the people who hire policemen and the policemen hired that they are not going to have the assurance of the 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, surely they can find other areas in which to express their partisan desires.

REPEAL RAMSPECK

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to end a powerful, but little-publicized perk associated with Congress. My bill will repeal the Ramspeck Act, which for 55 years has quietly allowed former congressional and judicial employees to burrow into the civil service—given priority consideration over all other applicants, and full seniority when hired—upon the retirement, election defeat, or